

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application and entry of this Amendment are solicited. Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-24 will be pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

Item 12 of the Official Action indicates that claims 14 and 15 are objected to but would be allowable if written in independent form. With the examiner's comment in mind the subject matter of claim 14 has been added to claim 1 and the dependency of claim 15 has been adjusted accordingly.

Certain of the claims have also been amended in order to improve their form of presentation/wording.

Claim 5 has been canceled in order to resolve the rejections stated on page 3, items 3-4 of the Official Action.

It is counsel's understanding that the amendments made to the claims will place all pending claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants are aware of a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection relating to co-pending application Serial No. 11/628,617. It is counsel's understanding that this application is now pending and under active consideration by Examiner Szekely in Art Unit 1796 and has not been allowed or issued. This being the case, the provisional rejection does not appear to be relevant to the claims now pending in this application.

Filed concurrently with this Amendment is an Information Disclosure Statement bringing the references of record in co-pending application Serial No. 11/628,617 to the attention of the examiner in this case. The fee of \$180 is also being submitted to assure consideration of these documents.

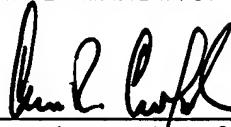
Reconsideration, entry of this Amendment and allowance are solicited.

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Appl. No. 10/578,610  
June 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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